

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature. I'm opposed to Senator Koch's amendment. I'll explain it to you. It's a principle which I don't think Senator Koch is aware of and maybe some of the other senators may not be aware of it opposing this bill. These figures are not arbitrary. They are based on a standard of need as established by the director of the Department of Public Welfare. The current standard of need as established by the department is \$230. But that amount is two years old and it was never funded by the Legislature. When the current law went into effect, allowing \$210, it was \$20 below the standard of need established by the Department of Welfare. So it was not even paying the minimum that the state recommended. Currently, the \$230 amount, which is the standard need which has never been paid, is two years old and it was not sufficient at the time. It is going to be necessary to update this amount by the Welfare Department. The \$250, which is recommended by 179 as it stands now, is not going to be adequate even if it's adopted. So, rather than take a numbers game approach and say, well this is less than one but more than the other, while disregarding the actual needs that are being addressed by this bill, I wish you would consider the genuine issues. If you need statistics on what constitutes poverty in the country, I can get those for you. But at this point, I think you can all realize even without it being demonstrated with a host of figures that \$250 is not excessive. For those people who wonder about the addition of food stamps and medical care and so forth giving a boondoggle to these poor people and by the way the ones who testified for this bill were white people and there are ADC recipients all over the state in every county and every one of your legislative districts. I have to bring that out because some people were filtering things back to me that I think ought to be laid to rest officially on the record. This bill deals with people who are poor. It deals with women who have children who are in the dependent status and need assistance. But back to the very point that I wanted to get across to you, this amount is not excessive. Although there is a certain amount made available in terms of food stamps that an ADC recipient can obtain, many times the ADC grant does not provide enough money to purchase the food stamps and you can't purchase them piece meal. If they allow you, say \$100 in food stamps, that doesn't mean those stamps are given to you. You have to take a certain percentage of money you get as an ADC grant to purchase the food stamps. If your rent, utilities, clothing, and other things cut too much into your grant, you cannot purchase the food stamps. So many people on ADC do not get food stamps because they cannot afford to buy them. Eligibility for food stamps are determined on two different basis on two different levels. If you're eligible for ADC, you're eligible for food stamps. But the ADC programs come under Health, Education, and Welfare at the national level. The Food Stamp Program is administered by the Department of Agriculture. HEW deals with the welfare and decent standard of living of people in this country in general. The Department of Welfare administers the Food Stamp Program as a subsidy to farmers. So, there are different standards and it is impossible as Director Eldin Ehrlich of the Welfare Department pointed out at the hearing, to determine just what food stamps an actual person would be entitled to unless you look at all of the factors of that individual's situation. So I would ask you to reject Senator Koch's amendment, which I believe is offered in sincerity, but the